



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

November 19, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Councilman Tim Lovain, Jake Jakubek, Jerry King, Stephen Klejst, Nathan Macek, and Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Yon Lambert – T&ES, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Lee Farmer – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Steve Sindiong – T&ES, Jim Maslanka – T&ES, Mark Jinks – City Managers Office

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1. September 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Chair Nathan Macek called the meeting to order and asked if there were any edits to the October 2014 minutes. Chair Macek indicated National Park Service should be changed to National Parks Service. He also asked that the word “loner” be changed to “loaner” under the discussion of local hotels that have bicycles for their guests. There being no additional edits, Commissioner Klejst made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Wasowski, voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on the following: Funding Update; Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; Metroway; West End Transitway; Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study; Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update; and Eisenhower West Transportation Study. Chair Macek asked if there were any questions or discussions on any items on the consent calendar. He indicated to staff he wanted to share the options for the multimodal bridge with the Commission. Staff Steve Sindiong gave a brief overview of the different options. There was also an oral update on the latest ridership statistics for the Route 1 Metroway, which shows that there are approximately 1,600 riders per day. There were no additional requests to discuss any other updates; therefore, the Commission accepted the updates.

3. FY 2016 - FY 2025 City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Guidance

Staff Sandra Marks gave an update and asked the Commission to provide guidance to staff for preparation of the FY 2016 budget for inclusion in the City Manager’s FY 2016 budget. Commissioner King asked if there had been any changes from last year’s recommendations. Ms.

Marks indicated that nothing has changed significantly according to guidance given last year. Commissioner Jakubek indicated he noticed Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) funds have been set aside for the West End Transitway (Corridor C) and wonders if funds are set aside each year for Corridor C. She replied 30% of the NVTA funds go back to the localities to be spent on transportation. 70% of funds need to be spent on regional projects. The legislation was written for example, where the NVTA developed a regional plan for those funds. Last year the Commission recommended a 10 year spending plan. As an example, she stated that one jurisdiction could request \$100 million for a major road project in 2020 and zero dollars for all other years. However, the City requested funds for smaller projects for earlier years and for 2017 the City requested \$60 million plus for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station and approximately \$50 million for Corridor C construction. Council approved that plan and the City is waiting to hear from NVTA. It's not definite that we will get those funds. Chair Macek asked if the Commission wanted to use the same recommendations the Commission adopted last year or if there are any additions or reprioritizations.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Jerry King to adopt the Commission recommendations from last year, with the following changes: move the preservation of the 2.2 cent transportation reservation to the top priority; move the "commit adequate operating funds for project management, procurement, and management of staff resources..." to the second priority; add a guidance statement that ensures adequate funding for the Police Department to enforce the proper use of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on Route 1 and Washington Street; add a guidance statement states the City should pursue discretionary grant funding for transportation projects, including state capital assistance and federal New Starts, Small Starts, and TIGER grants; and, add a guidance statement that states that Council should explore opportunities to help fund the regional transit needs beyond the City's transportation resources, given that WMATA transit service is a priority that should not fall entirely on the transportation budget. The motion was seconded by Jake Jakubek, voted on and unanimously approved.

4. Commission Updates

Commissioner Jakubek reported that the West End Transitway Policy Advisory Group have had a public meeting and series of workshops where the participants had concerns regarding the effect the Transitway would have on the neighborhood and parking. At the public meeting the group broke up into two groups facing the presenter. A friend who attended the meeting suggested splitting the group up into smaller groups in circles facing each other for discussion. This way the group would be less antagonistic with staff, and more excited about the project and process. Councilman Lovain reported that the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) discussed the reduction goal of greenhouse gas emissions and what technical analysis is needed to reach the goal. Councilman Lovain also stated that the Human Services Transportation Task Force is starting a grant process with \$5 Million in Federal funds for projects that assist seniors and persons with disabilities. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) asked TPB to help them reduce spending for Metro access by making more handicap accessible bus stops. WMATA has identified their highest priority locations and indicated several are on Duke Street. Chair Macek indicated that the Parking Standards for New Development Work Group is moving forward with draft recommendations to present to Council, and that the recommendations will be brought to various Commissions prior to Council approval. He noted that parking standards for residential development will be based on more recent usage trends taking into account proximity to Metrorail stations, Bus Rapid Transit, bus routes, walkability, and how much parking at a minimum the developer is willing to provide. Chair Macek stated the Commission should request membership on the Old Town Area

Parking Study (OTAPS) Work Group which will be reconvened. Commissioner King made a motion to send notification to the City Manager requesting that a Commission member be included in the OTAPS Work Group. The motion was seconded by Maria Wasowski, voted on and unanimously approved.

5. WMATA / Metro 2025 Discussion

Staff Jim Maslanka indicated that WMATA developed a plan called Momentum, to guide its planning efforts over the next 10 years. The initial program of Metro 2025 was forecasted to cost \$6.4 billion, which is above and beyond existing capital funding plans. The current WMATA funding program, which is funded by the federal government, the states, and local jurisdictions, allocates \$5.6 billion over the next six years focusing mostly on safety and state of good repair. WMATA's Metro 2025 program is proposed to provide \$1.3 billion over the next six years. Since the \$6.4 billion program is too expensive for the partners, WMATA has decided to phase in their programs, and are proposing a program which will be from FY 2016 to FY 2020. The cost to the City is \$66.8 million over the six-year period. The added cost to the City is \$8.4 million which increases to \$14.2 million in FY 2017.

6. Other Business

Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks gave an update on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station draft environmental impact statement (EIS) process. City staff has completed their review and the EIS has been handed off to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for review, which should be completed by March or April 2015. Thereafter, the City and Metro will be holding separate public meetings to choose the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The Final EIS (FEIS) is anticipated to be completed in late 2015, and it is anticipated that FTA will approve the FEIS and have a Record of Decision (ROD) by Spring 2016. Mr. Jinks also gave an update on the different station location alternatives.

Ms. Marks announced that City Council has approved changing the composition of the Commission to add two at large citizen representatives (one east of Quaker Lane and one west of Quaker Lane). The City Clerk will have to advertise the positions.

Acting Director of T&ES Yon Lambert stated that Council asked staff to return with recommendations of a governing structure of all boards and Commissions that encompass transportation related decisions, including the Transportation Commission, Traffic and Parking Board, and Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) Board. The structure may be looked at as part of an update to the Transportation Master Plan process.

Councilman Lovain stated that the TPB is looking for volunteers for Citizen Advisory Groups.

7. RSTP / CMAQ Request

Staff Sandra Marks gave an overview stating that since 1993-1994, the Commonwealth has allocated Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding to the northern Virginia region. CMAQ funds are allocated to metropolitan regions that do not meet Clean Air Act regulations. These funds must be used for activities that improve air quality and cannot be used to increase the capacity of roadways. RSTP funds are very flexible funds that can be used for a wide range of regional transportation activities. Ms. Marks stated that the Commission must review the proposed list of CMAQ/RSTP projects for FY 2016 – FY 2021 and develop a recommendation for City Council consideration and approval at their December 9, 2014 meeting. The City of Alexandria must submit its FY

2021 CMAQ/RSTP funding request to NVTa by December 17, 2014. Upon approval by City Council, the recommendations will be forwarded to the NVTa for their review and approval. The approved NVTa plan will be forwarded to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), which should incorporate approved projects in their Six Year Plan which will be approved in June, 2015. Ms. Marks provided an overview of staff's recommended project funding request for FY2016-FY 2021 and explained the focus of those projects. Commissioner Wasowski made a motion to support the staff recommendation to be forwarded to Council. Commissioner Jakubek seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

8. Oakville Triangle

Staff Sandra Marks gave an overview of the Oakville Triangle project and its challenges. One developer owns a majority 13 acres of the 26 acre site. All other acres are individually owned. There are a limited number of streets that go in the east west direction and provide connectivity outside of the plan area. Staff is looking at additional connectivity and intersection improvements to mitigate impacts from the proposed development. Staff is studying opportunities to improve the East Glebe and Route 1 intersection. Staff will continue to work with the community over the coming months and will be holding a work session with City Council on December 9, 2014.

Jerry King made a motion to adjourn the meeting. There being no objection, the motion was seconded by Jake Jakubek, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.